GEOGRAPHIC NEWS BULLETIN

Published Weekly by

THE NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC SOCIETY

(The National Geographic Society is a scientific and educational Society, wholly altruistic, incorporated under the Federal law as a non-commercial institution for the increase of geographic knowledge and its popular diffusion.)

General Headquarters, Washington, D. C.

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SEAGULLS, GREEN BAY, SPITSBERGEN

Spitsbergen, with valuable coal deposits, and supporting along its shores multitudes of birds and fishes, is directly across the pole from the unexplored region north of Alaska. It is considered probable that an equally valuable land mass may exist in the latter region.

HOW TO OBTAIN THE BULLETIN

The Geographic News Bulletin is published weekly throughout the school year (thirty issues) and will be mailed to teachers for one year upon receipt of 25 cents (in stamps or money order). Entered as second-class matter, January 27, 1922, at the Post Office at Washington, D. C., under the Act of March 3, 1879. Acceptance for mailing at special rate of postage provided for in section 1103, Act of October 3, 1917, authorized February 9, 1922.

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Scientific Value of Polar Flight

MUCH scientific information, some of it potentially practicable for navigators, farmers and fishermen, will result, there is good reason to believe, from the proposed Polar survey by the U. S. Navy which has been ordered for next spring by Secretary of Navy Denby, with the authority of President Coolidge. The National Geographic Society will cooperate in this expedition to explore this region of mystery.

This largest unexplored area of the world lies at the threshold of American territory—between Point Barrow, Alaska, and the North Pole. As the crow—or airplane—flies it is 1287 miles from Point Barrow to the pole and the flight path cuts the center of this vast region, three times the size of Texas. Literally nothing is known by direct observation of this expanse—not even whether it is land, or water, or both.

Indications of Land

Notes of navigators along its edges indicate that land exists there. Movements and age of the ice, tides and wave measurements point to that conclusion. Should land exist the vegetation will be worthy of study; it is entirely possible the islands some day may have an economic value, and planting the American flag there may be accounted an act of foresight by future generations as it will be acclaimed a patriotic feat by living Americans.

Animal life abounds in the Arctic, fish are plentiful, and as a multiplying population turns more and more to the sea for its food the submarine life of the Polar regions assumes ever increasing importance. Oceanic mammals, especially whales and seals, emerge into reach of mankind's habitations upon the Arctic's outskirts. The world's richest fisheries are located principally at places where Arctic Ocean waters meet the warmer waters of southern seas—notably off Norway, Newfoundland, and Iceland.

Grasses, plants and "flowers" that grow thousands of fathoms beneath the ice may be plucked from their hiding places for scientific study.

Flying Conditions Favorable

Should aircraft be used to make a reconnaissance flight over the 1287-mile course between Point Barrow and the pole the flight will be another memorable exhibition of the Navy's initiative and daring, but it will be far from the rash adventure the layman might at first imagine.

Indeed, the flyers would have some marked advantages over a similar distance across Atlantic Ocean waters. The continuous daylight of a polar summer eliminates the handicap that darkness entails in the event of mechanical troubles. In an uncharted region the 24-hour day is especially helpful.

Flyers would encounter leads of water, short distances apart, in much of the unknown zone. These would permit planes to alight, and would allow the use of convoy planes to bring supplies, relief, and additional personnel. The ice floes are virtually safety rafts for the flyers. In trouble, a plane alighting

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LITTLE MAIDS OF WALCHEREN

Walcheren is the westernmost of the islands of the Netherlands and is a part of the Province of Zeeland. It is a sort of animated museum of quaint costumes.

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Canton: China's Forced-Open Door

AGAIN Canton figures as something of a storm center in China with the landing of foreign marines to prevent destruction of the city by factions.

If the well-worn phrase "the open door to China" were applied specifically, Canton would undoubtedly fit the description more truly than any other city. But the explanation would have to be added that at times the Canton portal has been kept open only by the forcible planting in it of the heavy foot of the Powers.

Where Europeans First Traded

There in 1517 the first commercial contracts were made between China and the West when the Portuguese obtained permission to trade with the Cantonese. Later the Dutch, the English, the French, and finally, the Yankees sent their ships and traders to the city. For a time it was the only city which the authorities of China permitted to have intercourse with "the Western barbarians."

Canton's priority was not alone in trade. The first Roman Catholic missionaries to China settled in 1571 at Macao, a few miles down the river from Canton, and ten years later began work in Canton itself. The city, too, had one of the first Mohammedan mosques to be established among the Chinese; and there in 1807 the first Protestant missionary to China settled.

Pricked by Western Ideas

Although the Cantonese were probably more alert to begin with than the Chinese of other regions, they undoubtedly have been quickened and made more progressive by the constant stimulus of contact with Westerners during the past 400 years. Their western visitors aroused their curiosity, with the result that the Cantonese are, par excellence, the emigrants of China. Thousands of them have "graduated" from the United States and Canada, South America, South Africa, and Europe, where, while serving as cooks or laundrymen, restaurateurs, shop-keepers, or lottery magnates, they have in some measure absorbed Western ways and ideas. Back in Canton, they have not failed to leaven somewhat the oriental lump. It is not strange, then, that from Canton has come on numerous occasions pressure against conservative Peking for reform, and at times revolution. Some sort of breach between north and south China was inevitable in recent years; and it was equally inevitable that Canton, greatest city of the South, should lead it.

But though the leaven of Western ideas is working in Canton, it has not lifted the teeming old city of a million souls from its thoroughly Chinese appearance and customs. Its narrow, alley-like streets, none too clean, hemmed in by low houses and set off by great black and gold and black and red signs, are the streets of any typical Chinese town. Through them patter the bare feet of coolies like those of their countless predecessors whose calloused soles have worn deep channels in the flagstones. Along the river banks are anchored acres and acres of small, brown, flimsy boats in each of which a family lives as its ancestors did in the time of Marco Polo.

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in the water always would be in easy reach of ice or, if under sufficient control, it could land on the ice. It could there make repairs or radio for relief.

The radio, of course, is a prime factor in eliminating hazard in Arctic flying.

Another important advantage the Arctic holds is the eternal calm of the waters. No high seas are ever encountered among the leads as frequently is the case in the Atlantic.

Comfortable Temperatures Probable

Comfortable flying temperatures are practically certain in an Arctic summer. The Weather Bureau has recorded 100 degrees at Fort Yukon, Alaska. In this respect the use of aircraft gives the polar explorer a new-found advantage over the pioneers who had to brave the extreme cold of winter to gain the benefit of unbroken ice.

This calls attention to a noteworthy fact about the proposed expedition—it will be the first summer expedition in the polar field except the Nansen drift in the *Fram*.

Summer weather in the Arctic is much warmer than around the South Pole, which is located on a plateau, two miles high.

May Aid Weather Predictions

Practically all the detailed information now available about Arctic temperatures is derived from the log of the *Fram*, which drifted on the Siberian side of the pole. It is possible that observations made in the unexplored regions on the Alaskan and Canadian side will have high value in the predictions of our own Weather Bureau.

It is even more certain that our knowledge of ocean currents will be greatly expanded by a study of the movements of Arctic waters. The rapid multiplying of ocean lanes lends growing importance to the almost infant ocean current science, to which a notable addition was made by the late Rear Admiral John Elliott Pillsbury, a former President of the National Geographic Society, in his painstaking observations of the Gulf Stream. The great polar area is the one remaining "blind spot" of the great rivers of the sea which are so important to the navigator.

Magnetic observations open another alluring field for scientists who will accompany the expedition.

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Tampico: Mexico's City of Oil

REPORTS from Mexico of revolutions and rumors of revolutions usually include a speculation on what will happen, under any change in government, to Tampico, the heart of Mexico's rich petroleum fields.

This city, long a port of no great importance, has had a mushroom growth in the last fifteen years, its population increasing from less than 17,000 in 1906 to well over 100,000 today. The explanation for this great stride forward can be given in one word—oil. The biggest "gusher" the world has ever known was drilled near Tampico in 1908 and scores of other huge streams of oil have been opened up in the same vicinity since. Hundreds of millions of gallons of oil have passed through Tampico, and the town has been the financial and business headquarters for fields many miles away.

Floated to Prosperity on Oil

Money flowed easily into the pockets of a large number of American managers and technical workers who were brought in, and into the hands of Mexican landowners, merchants and day laborers. The World War raised the demand for liquid fuel to unheard of heights and it seemed that everyone in Tampico was becoming wealthy. Conditions closely paralleled those in the oil towns of the United States. Silk shirts were not the vogue that they were among the loungers along every American Main Street, but in their way Tampicans became equally proficient as spenders. There was little inclination to "count the change." The cost of all articles of food and apparel rose tremendously. Rents soared until ordinary accommodations for Americans could not be obtained for much under $200 to $300 per month.

Because the after-the-war industries of the world required petroleum no less than did the navies of the fighting nations during the war, Tampico's prosperity continued after most other communities whose business was quickened by the war were experiencing a setback. Belatedly though the city underwent the readjustment that came to the rest of the world.

Handles More Freight Than Vera Cruz

Although Tampico owes its prosperity predominantly to oil, it has other factors that contribute to its importance. Thanks to a railroad from Monterey, connecting with the mining region of north-central Mexico, and to excellent harbor improvements, the town is an important port of entry and export. It has surpassed Vera Cruz in the bulk of commodities handled, though the latter city probably is the port of entry for products of greater aggregate value.

The city of Tampico is not directly on the seacoast but is situated a few miles up the Panuco River, which is broad and deep and affords anchorage for a large number of ocean-going ships. At the mouth of the stream at La Barra is a supplemental harbor. Near the latter place is one of the finest sea beaches to be found.

Until Tampico found its buried treasure and shook off its lethargy it was an exceedingly unhealthful place, often being subject to epidemics of yellow fever.

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ONE OF MEXICO'S GIANT GUSHERS ON FIRE

In the country around Tampico is the world's most highly developed great oil field. Wells spouting more than 100,000 barrels of petroleum each day have been brought in there in recent years. The tremendous stream of oil flowing out of Tampico materially helped the Allies and the United States to win the World War.

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Weihaiwei: A British-Ruled Patch of Pongee-Land

"WHAT makes pongee, pongee?" is a riddle that probably not one out of a score of the wearers of the cool summer silk can solve. The answer is tied up in a way with Weihaiwei, one of the half-dozen or so patches of China that have been under foreign control, and which, it is now announced, will be turned back to its age-old owner as a result of a British-Chinese agreement just reached in Peking. Great Britain has held it under lease for the past quarter century.

Great Britain's step in taking over control of Weihaiwei in 1898 was not due to any economic importance of the place, but solely to the fact that it has strategic value as a naval base. The years 1897 and 1898 saw the high water-mark of territorial acquisition in China by foreign powers, and Great Britain felt impelled to take a part in the procedure, she has explained, by way of self-protection.

Moved to Checkmate Russia

Germany started the scramble in November, 1897, by seizing the ill-fated Kiachow Bay, from which she was to be driven by Japan during the World War, and by forcing China to grant her a 99-year lease on the surrounding territory. Almost immediately Russia forced from China a 25-year lease on Port Arthur, at the southern tip of Manchuria. Following this Great Britain negotiated for the control of Weihaiwei, exactly midway between the German and Russian ports. She made her reasons for the move plain by setting out in the agreement that the lease was to run for 25 years or "so long as Russia occupies Port Arthur." The lease was therefore nominally for 25 years.

When Japan defeated Russia and took a 99-year lease on Port Arthur Great Britain did not extend her Weihaiwei lease correspondingly, and has let it run out in the original term. The British-ruled town of Port Edward will be made into a sort of treaty port for British residents and traders.

Chief Value Naval

Weihaiwei is near the tip of Shantung's principal peninsula, which, with what may be called for American ears the "Port Arthur peninsula" to the north, almost closes the entrance to the Gulf of Pechili from the Yellow Sea. With Port Arthur, this British territory dominates the water road to Peking's and Tientsin's ports.

Just as the Bay of Weihaiwei is valuable in strategic position, so it is valuable physically, for its harbor is deep and sheltered. But in the sphere of geography that lies outside naval considerations the place is of small account. Germany's and Japan's Tsingtau had a rich hinterland behind it and became rather a prosperous port. But the low, sandy coast lands and rolling hills about Weihaiwei are not known to contain minerals, and they fall far short of constituting a Garden of Eden agriculturally. The region's two bids to fame economically are ground nuts, of which considerable quantities are produced in the valleys—and pongee silk.

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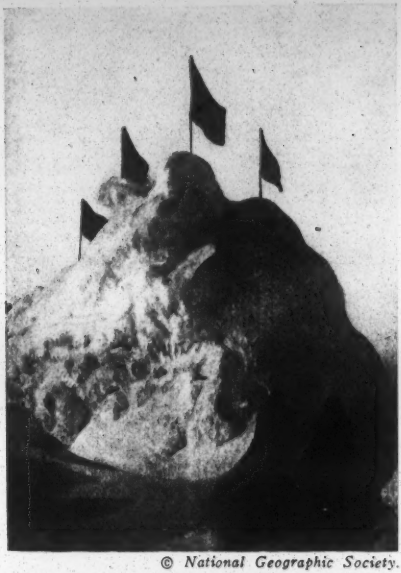
Drainage and the application of other modern methods of sanitation have greatly improved the health conditions. The families of numerous American and English employees of the big oil companies have moved in, and a thriving English-speaking colony exists in the higher western part of the city.



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ADMIRAL PEARY'S PHOTOGRAPH OF THE NORTH POLE

The northern axis of the globe is in the midst of a vast Polar Sea, and the mound of the photograph is a mere mass of snow and ice utilized by Peary as a pinnacle for the American Flag which floats at the top. On his return journey, five miles from the Pole, the explorer came upon a narrow crack in the ice, through which he attempted a sounding. The length of his apparatus was 9,000 feet, but the lead did not strike bottom. So, the depth of the sea at the Pole is still undetermined.

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Zeeland: Where Styles Never Change

THE HOLIDAYS, with their inevitable costume parties, suggest Zeeland, province of Holland, where one might fancy the populace in a never-ending costume party. This quaint region is described in the following communication to the National Geographic Society:

"Zeeland is a paradise of quaint costumes. Every island, almost every town, once had its own distinctive dress, and many still retain it.

Wives Have Dairy and Poultry Monopoly

"The butter market at Middelburg has a pretty setting. The wagons and chaises roll up to the two gateways in endless procession, and the fair Walcheren dames descend with much shaking of voluminous skirts and aprons, much patting of caps and adjusting of coral necklaces, to set their baskets of golden butter and pearly eggs in even rows upon the long benches within before trotting off to the inevitable shopping.

"The product of dairy and chicken-coop belongs exclusively to the farmers' wives in Zeeland. It is they who do the selling, they who spend the earnings. You may find the men at the grain market; on the corners where pigs, calves, or sheep are for sale; in the cafes about the market square smoking and drinking with their fellows, and upon the days of great cattle markets very busy indeed driving shrewd bargains.

Market in Second-Best Gowns

"The butter market is ready for business about 1 o'clock. If you saunter in then through the iron gateway, now standing hospitably wide to invite buyers, you will find the front row of benches occupied around all three sides of the arcade with close-set rows of heavy baskets and the back row by the wall with a hundred or more rosy farmers' wives and daughters, dainty as the proverbial new pin, in glistening white caps, gold spirals, coral necklaces, many finger-rings, and best black aprons over the second-best gown. The very best belongs to festivals and kermis.

"The gay frontispiece and the bare arms give an air of gaiety to the somber costume, and the upturned gold spirals at each temple are fine hangers for many broad pearl-tipped pendants, which quite belie the demure primness of the close white cap.

Vivacious as Irish Colleens

"They are not so demure after all, these dainty little dames who trip so swiftly and lightly from house to house, from shop to shop, from booth to booth, in the market-place. They are mischievous and roguish, despite the somewhat puritanical air lent by their garb, and quick at repartee and banter as our friend from Cork, whom in vivacity they somewhat resemble.

"A tiny maid of four, a wee laddie unable to speak plainly, wear precisely the same costume as mother or father—full, long, black skirts, white cap, tiny

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Oak-Fed Silk Worms

To most persons, no doubt, silk means a fiber spun by domesticated silk worms fed on mulberry leaves. But the silk industry is different in the Weihaiwei neighborhood and other parts of Shantung. The pongee—by which name their silk is known—unbleached and in its natural color, is the product not of domestic but of "wild" silk worms. And they do not eat mulberry leaves, but browse, so to speak, on the leaves of the scrub oak trees of the Shantung hills. Their cocoons are gathered in large quantities and so the otherwise waste hill lands are made to yield a relatively rich harvest.

In returning the Weihaiwei leasehold to China, Great Britain will turn back a better region than she received. New plants and animals have been introduced, considerable denuded areas have been reforested, and good roads have been built. Weihaiwei has a favorable climate and during the twenty-five years of British occupancy has been used to a certain extent as a summer resort by Europeans from Hongkong and the southern treaty ports.

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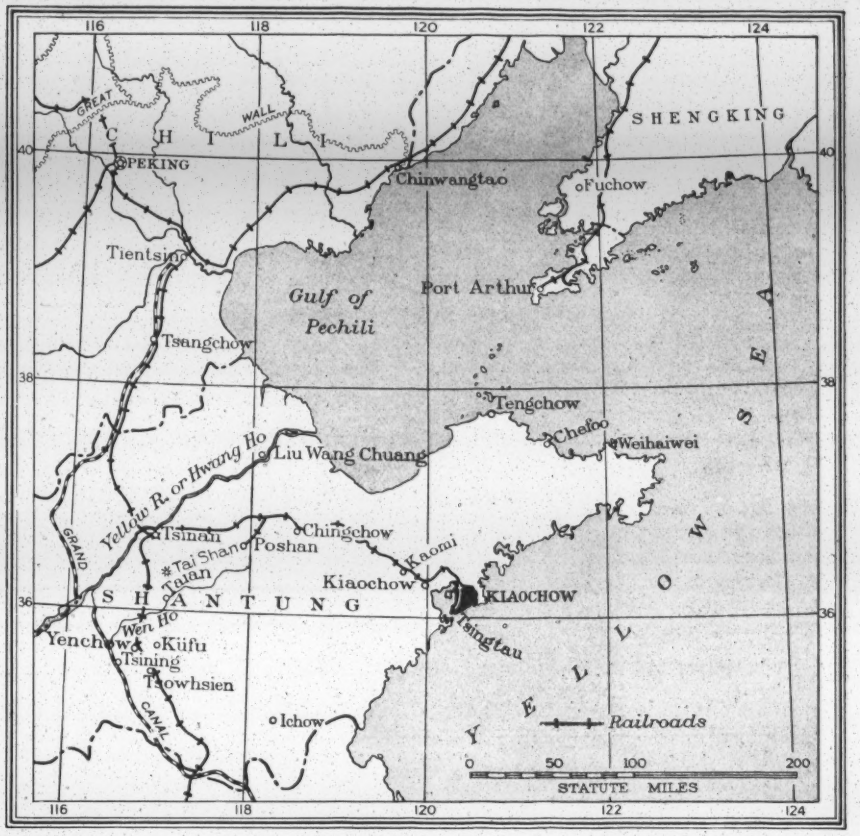

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WHERE CHINA IS COMING INTO HER OWN AGAIN

The map shows in the south Kiaochow, held under lease by Germany, then Japan, but returned to China more than a year ago. In the north is Port Arthur, still under lease to the Japanese. Between them is Weihaiwei, leased to Great Britain twenty-five years ago, and now about to be turned back to the Chinese.

gold spiral, coral beads, and aprons for one; black cloth or velvet trousers and jacket, much adorned with silver buttons, silver-buckled shoes, and queer black hat for the other.

"At Ter Goes the butter market is also ruled by the ladies. It, too, is held in an enclosure and its gate opens upon the market-place. Without it the men are grouped in numbers, but within the dames reign supreme. There is no great linden to cast picturesque shadows nor to filter the sunshine which touches a gold pendant or coral bead now and then with living fire. There is not the same cool, green shadow to make yellower the golden butter or whiter the pearly eggs; but the matrons and maids who buy and sell are far more startling to stranger eyes than the Walcheren beauties.

Headdress Marks Religious Belief

"Over their bodices gay kerchiefs are folded in prescribed and curious lines, and the caps which cover their shapely heads are of lace plaited into wide-spreading wings. There is always a small close cap which fits the head snugly, disclosing the hair only at the forehead, where it rolls back in a tiny smooth puff.

"From beneath this cap jut shiny gold plates like window mirrors, secured firmly in place by huge gold pins. Above this is worn the lace cap, coming down smooth and straight to end squarely across the shoulders for a Catholic woman, gathered or plaited to flare widely and coquettishly for the woman whose faith is Calvinistic.

"Their fathers or husbands also mark belief by headdress. The Protestant wears his beaver hat with brim rolled up the entire round; the Catholic turns his down in front to form a visor."

Bulletin No. 5, January 7, 1924.

Form for Renewal of Bulletin Requests

Many requests for the Geographic News Bulletin were made for the year ending with this issue. If you desire the Bulletins continued kindly notify The Society promptly. The attached form may be used:

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I am a teacher in..... school .....grade

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